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## SURVEY ANNOUNCEMENT

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### **Ag Economic Surveys Will Measure Farm Financial Health**

[ATHENS, GA, January 5, 2000] – Georgia farmers will have the opportunity to “let their voice be heard” by participating in the 1999 agricultural economic surveys. These surveys, titled the 1999 Agricultural Economics and Land Ownership Survey and the 1999 Agricultural Resource Management Study, provide vital statistics about the economic condition of production agriculture. Most importantly, they are used by members of the agricultural community and their legislators when making important decisions that impact the future of America’s farmers.

Risk management and debt restructuring studies by Farm Services Agency (FSA) are examples of local benefits resulting from these surveys. Data collected are also used to determine the percent of farmland owned by type of landlord at the State and national level. These data are also a resource when policymakers determine Federal assistance. In 1999, direct government payments totaled \$23 billion dollars—double the amount provided in 1998.

Agricultural producers chosen to participate in these surveys will represent from 50 to 100 fellow producers, and will therefore make an important contribution to the overall welfare of America’s farmers. These are the only surveys which objectively measure the current financial health of our farms. These surveys will begin in late January and early February.

Results from these surveys will be used by farm operators, farm organizations, commodity groups, lenders, university researchers, news media, local USDA agencies, farm suppliers, and others to compute prices paid, evaluate the economic health of America’s food and fiber producers, determine the need for farm assistance, measure the cost of farm production, and assess the ability for producers to maintain sustainable farms.

For a copy of the finished report or to obtain other agricultural statistics, visit the Georgia Agricultural Statistics Service website at [www.usda.gov/nass/ga](http://www.usda.gov/nass/ga) or call 1-800-253-4419.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:  
GEORGIA AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE  
TELEPHONE: 1-800-253-4419

## 1999 Agricultural Economic Surveys Drop-In Ad

### Fact or Opinion?

Which would you choose to make decisions that affect your farm?

Make the facts *known*. Respond to the USDA's 1999 agricultural economic surveys.

